

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1574

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: CH US
SUBJ: USLO CHIEF'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER

1. SUMMARY. MY INITIAL 30-MINUTE CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA TOOK PLACE IN CORDIAL AND RELAXED ATMOSPHERE. HUANG NOTED AND WELCOME THE PRESIDENT'S REITERATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE AND LOOKED FORWARD TO DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY VANCE. IN DESCRIBING THE GENERAL SPIRIT OF HAPPINESS IN CHINA OVER THE RESULTS OF THE THIRD PLENUM, HUANG POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS A "GREAT VICTORY FOR CHAIRMAN MAO'S THOUGHT INCLUDING HIS LINE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS." HE NOTED THAT THOSE WHO HAD PREDICTED INTERNAL CONFUSION LAST YEAR AND "HARBORED ILLUSIONS THAT CHINA WOULD CHANGE ITS FOREIGN POLICY AND SOFTEN ITS POSITION" HAD BEEN CONFOUNDED. MEETING ON THE WHOLE, THOUGH, PASSED WITHOUT THE POLEMICS THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH HUANG OFTEN CONTAIN AND WAS, I THOUGHT, A GOOD BEGINNING. END SUMMARY

2. ATMOSPHERICS. HUANG WAS FRIENDLY AND RELAXED THROUGHOUT OUR THIRTY-MINUTE SESSION. ALTHOUGH HE OBVIOUSLY PICKED HIS WORDS RATHER CAREFULLY IN DISCUSSING SINO-US RELATIONS, NO SPECIAL TENSION SURROUNDED HIS REMARKS ON NORMALIZATION.

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3. RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. FOLLOWING MY BRIEF REMARKS CONCERNING MY PREPARATIONS FOR THIS POST, INCLUDING READING THE FULL TRANSCRIPTS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS BETWEEN CHINESE AND US LEADERS, HUANG NOTED WITH APPRECIATION PRESIDENT CARTER'S REITERATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. HE STRESSED

"AS LONG AS BOTH SIDES STRICTLY ABIDE BY THE PRINCIPLES
OF THE COMMUNIQUE OUR RELATIONS CAN BE DEVELOPED....
IF THERE ARE VIOLATIONS OR EVEN DAMAGE TO THE PRINCIPLES
OF THE COMMUNIQUE, IT WILL NOT BE CONDUCIVE TO DEVELOPMENT
OF OUR RELATIONS."

4. THIRD PLENUM. HUANG CLOSED THE MEETING WITH A FEW
REMARKS ON THE WIDESPREAD SPIRIT OF JOY IN THE COUNTRY
OVER THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE THIRD PLENUM. WITHOUT
REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO THE CONTENTS OF THE
RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE PLENUM HE SAID THAT THEY HAD
BEEN CELEBRATED WITH PARADES IN "EXTREME HEAT AND
POURING RAIN." THOSE WHO HAD THOUGHT DURING THE
PERIOD OF MAO'S TERMINAL ILLNESS THAT CHINA WOULD BE
FACED WITH INTERNAL CONFUSION AND HAD HARBORED ILLUSIONS
THAT CHINA WOULD CHANGE ITS FOREIGN POLICY AND SOFTEN
ITS POSITION HAD THEIR PREDICTIONS PROVED GROUNDLESS.
IN INTERPRETING HUANG'S ASSESSMENT THAT THE PLENUM
WAS A GREAT VICTORY FOR CHAIRMAN MAO'S THOUGHT TANG
WEN-SHENG STRESSED THAT THE VICTORY INCLUDED MAO'S
LINE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

5. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO TELL WHETHER THE
SETTING OF OUR BRIEF DISCUSSION OF SINO-US RELATIONS
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF MY INITIAL COURTESY CALL ON
THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS THE MAIN REASON HUANG REFRAINED
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FROM TAKING AS TIGHT A LINE AS HE HAS PREVIOUSLY.
NEVERTHELESS, LOOKING BACK ON HIS PREVIOUS TALKS WITH
FORMER UNDER SECRETARY SISCO AND CODEL BRADENAS/
SCHWEIKER I AM IMPRESSED WITH HOW MUCH HE LEFT UNSAID
THIS TIME. I THINK IT WAS A GOOD BEGINNING. END
COMMENT.

6. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG HAI-JUNG HAS INVITED ME
AND STAFF MEMBERS FROM USLO TO LUNCH AUGUST 2.
WOODCOCK

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